

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-11 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 COME-00 STR-08 EB-11

TRSE-00 /142 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3808

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1379

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CS

SUBJECT: FIGUERES DENIES REPORTS OF TRAVEL TO USSR AND PRC

REF: SAN JOSE 1372

IN THE WAKE OF LA NACION' S REPORT APRIL 23 REPORTED IN REFTTEL, PRESIDENT FIGUERES RELEASED A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IN WHICH HE CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT HE HAS ANY CURRENT PLANS TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION OR CHINA. FIGUERES EXPLAINED THAT THE REPORTS MUST HAVE DERIVED FROM THE VISIT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO OF SEVERAL CHINESE NEWSMEN WHO LOOSELY INVITED HIM TO SOME DAY VISIT THEIR COUNTRY. FIGUERES SAID HE THANKED THEM FOR THE COURTESY OF THEIR INVITATION AND ADDED THAT SHORTLY THEREAFTER JOSE CASTILLO ZAMORA, WHO HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHINESE VISITORS, HAD OFFERED TO ARRANGE A FORMAL INVITATION FOR HIM TO VISIT CHINA. FIGUERES SAID HE APPRECIATED THE OFFER, BUT EXPRESSED HIS DOUBTS THAT SUCH A VISIT COULD BE MADE DURING THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. MOREOVER, THE PRESIDENT SAID " OUR GOVERNMENT IS VERY HAPPY WITH ITS CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS AND THIS (VISIT) WOULD CREATE AN INSOLUBLE PROTOCOL PROBLEM". FIGUERES ALSO SAID THAT HE SAW NOTHING OBJECTIONABLE IN VISITS BY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN

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PRESIDENTS TO THOSE PARTS OF THE WORLD WHICH HAVE BEEN
SEPARATED FOR THE 25 YEARS OF THE COLD WAR OR
" PERHAPS SINCE BEFORE 1917, NOR WOULD IT BE OBJECTIONABLE
IF I MADE A VISIT TO THE MOON, BUT RIGHT NOW I AM NOT
THINKING OF DOING IT".
VAKY

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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